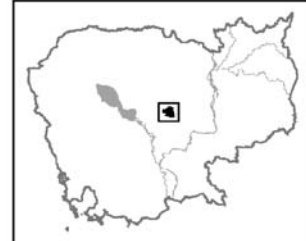


Northern Santuk

Criteria A1, A3 & A4i

Province(s):	Kampong Thom
District(s):	Santuk, Stung Sen and Prasat Sambo
Area (ha):	24,312
Altitude (m asl):	14 to 40
Central coordinates:	12°41'N 105°07'E



General description

The IBA is situated in northern Santuk District, to the north-east of Stung Sen/Santuk/Baray IBA (KH021). The vegetation of the IBA chiefly comprises degraded deciduous dipterocarp forest, interspersed with seasonal wetlands and patches of paddy rice cultivation. The IBA is one of the only areas in Cambodia currently known to support non-breeding Bengal Floricans *Houbaropsis bengalensis*, which visit the site during the wet season when their breeding areas in the inundation zone of Tonle Sap Lake are flooded. Also during the wet season, the seasonal wetlands at the IBA support a number of other globally threatened and near-threatened bird species, including Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* and Greater Adjutant *L. dubius*.

Key bird species

Common name	Scientific name	IBA criteria	
Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	A1	
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	A1	
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	A1	
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		A4i
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	A1	
Greater Adjutant	<i>L. dubius</i>	A1	A4i

Biome restricted species

One species is restricted to the Indo-Gangetic Plains (see Appendix 4).

Threats to biodiversity

One of the major threats to biodiversity at the IBA is hunting, which is a particular threat to Bengal Florican. While hunting pressure on this species at the IBA may not be as severe as in the breeding areas, the level and impact of hunting are not yet fully understood. Another threat is disturbance caused by local people cultivating wet-season rice in the IBA but this is not thought to be great. Finally, agricultural expansion is a potential future threat to both forest and wetland habitats at the IBA.

Recommendations

- Law enforcement and community awareness activities should be initiated based on the successful model at Stung Sen/Santuk/Baray IBA (KH021). These should focus on controlling the hunting and trade of key species, particularly Bengal Floricans and large waterbirds, and the potential benefits to local communities.

References

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- Seng Kim Hout et al. (2002) *Field survey of seasonally flooded wetlands located in the east of Tonle Sap Lake in Kampong Thom and Siem Reap provinces*. Unpublished report to the Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program and the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme.